

Know the Basics of Hazing

WHAT HAZING LOOKS LIKE

SOURCE: <https://hazingprevention.org/home/hazing/facts-what-hazing-looks-like/>

DEFINITION

Hazing is any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Some definitions of hazing vary but all have common factors:

- Power differential between those in a group and those who want to join a group, or between senior and junior members of a group.
- Intentional initiation rite, practice or 'tradition' involved.
- Willingness to participate does not absolve responsibility for either party.

EXAMPLES OF HAZING

Below are just some examples of hazing practices that occur:

- Forced activities for new recruits to 'prove' their worth to join.
- Forced or required consumption of alcohol.
- Requirement to eat spicy foods, other substances.
- Requirement to endure hardships such as staying awake, menial tasks, physical labor, and running while blindfolded, etc.
- Humiliation of new or potential members.
- Isolation of new or potential members.
- Beatings, paddling, or other physical acts against new or potential members.
- Requirements for new or potential members to do things established members are not required to do.
- Illegal activities such as requirement to steal local items as part of a scavenger hunt.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hazing occurs in sports teams, clubs, Greek life, cheerleading, honor societies and more.
- Hazing is often about power and control. Hazing does not build unity.
- More than half of students in colleges and universities involved in clubs, sports teams and organizations have experienced hazing.
- A significant number of hazing incidents and deaths involve alcohol consumption.
- Students are more likely to be hazed if they knew an adult who was hazed.
- 2 in 5 students say they are aware of hazing taking place on their campus.
- Hazing occurs in middle schools, high schools and colleges.
- Both male and female students report a high level of hazing.

IS THIS HAZING?

If you are not sure whether something happening to you or to someone else is hazing, ask yourself these questions:

- Would I feel comfortable participating in this activity if my parents were watching?
- Would we get in trouble if a school/college administrator walked by and saw us?
- Am I being asked to keep these activities a secret?
- Am I doing anything illegal?
- Does participation in this activity violate my values or those of this organization?
- Is this causing emotional or physical distress or stress to myself or to others?
- Am I going to be able to get a job if I have to put a criminal arrest on my application?